The Middletown Transcript.

VOL. XXX.—NO 51. MIDDLETOWN, DELAWARE, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1897. PRICE THREE CENTS.

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The Book of The Royal Blue.

The "Book of the Royal Blue," issued by the Passenger Department of the Baltimore and Ohio R. R., has made its initial appearance with the October number, and is undoubtedly, the most creditable magazine of its nature published. Aside from being a model example of modern typography, it is most interesting as to its contents. A field for interesting literature is certainly offered by the Baltimore and Ohio R. R. because it is the oldest railway in the United States; is foremost in historical prominence, and is rich in magnificent scenery. The latter especially affords an endless scope for illustrations, and the magazine has started on its venture with all these points full in hand.

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Her Christmas.

It was a glorious Christmas morning, and Miranda stood in the doorway and watched the sun climbing over the snow capped mountains.

She had risen early and hurried through all her duties. Long before her father was up—for he was wont to sleep later than usual on high days and holidays—she had prepared the turkey and pudding and set them aside, and had been to the dairy for the cream and butter for breakfast. Then she had dressed in her comeliest gown and come and stood in the doorway.

Miranda, though, was not pretty even at her best. She was tall, slightly built and of almost an angular form, with features characteristic of the part of the country in which she lived. Her home was in the extreme western part of Maryland, in the Alleghany valleys, or broad plateaus known as "The Glades"

Here she and her father had lived and farmed since she had been a child. She had never known any other section of the state, and the sparkling, tumbling streams which dashed past the house on their way to either the Potomac or the Mississippi seemed as though they were part and parcel of her.

At one time she had been considered the sprightliest girl in all "The Glades." And there had been women who had envied and hated her, and men who had loved and courted her, but she had simply judged men and women alike, with a smile, a pleasant word, and passed them by. This indifference, which both charmed and exasperated at the same time, she had allowed to go on until Robert Dodd, a neighboring farmer, who socially under a cloud, on the charge of having committed some small misdemeanor, became a visitor at her house. Then one evening she had shown a preference for him over Jim Clayton, and Clayton noticing it, had unhitched his horse from the fence before the evening was over and ridden away. The coincidant had not escaped her that she had provoked one man's anger by adding to another man's bliss. Still, of such things a girl may not testify, and the next morning she felt a heavy shock when the cry of murder rang through the valley and the guilt was laid at Robert Dodd's door.

The victim was a stranger, who was supposed to have been passing over the mountains to the western states. Evidently an altercation of some sort had taken place, and the result had been fatal. Nothing further was definitely known, but it had been proved that Robert Dodd had been the only man who had passed down the valley that night, and as society had already rejected him his name was pretty roughly handled by the loosely defined circles, where the force of judgment makes up for the weakness of the law in dealing with crimes which are difficult of detection and uncertain of punishment. A word was pronounced against him as powerful as the levitical curse. He was indicted, tried and condemned, but afterward, through the intercession of the governor, was commuted to a life sentence in prison.

He had not complained nor asked a hearing in his own defence, for he well knew no benefit could be derived there by, but from the first Miranda had disputed the accusation and had fought his cause with a stubborn persistance. Many a grievious hour and anxious night had she spent without fruition to her hopes. Still, she had continued to work and strive and plot until finally after ten weary years success had crowned her efforts. Time had lessened the vindictiveness of evil tongues, and the people, fearing they had overstepped the limits of justice, wished to ease their consciences; so had signed a petition for Robert's pardon.

As she toyed with the thought that he would be home that morning Christmas seemed to have a new significance from what it had in the past. The tall peaks and cliffs around, which had been snow covered during the night, stood in broken outlines against the grayish haze, while a star, as though it were the star of Bethlehem, seemed to float far a way and dissolve into a ruddy glow which slowly formed the sphere of rising sun. Then the icicles hanging from trees and bushes glistened, like thousand of jewels studding the scene, like some great crown offered for the salvation of mankind. Christmas! She could almost see the Christ Child lying in his manger, where he was found that morning centuries ago. It had never been so clear to her before or the beneficence of the season so full of beauty.

What a day of all days for Robert's return!

Seeing some one in the distance, she waited with an eagerness akin to restlessness. Then as he came nearer she recognized Jim Clayton.

"Good mornin. A merry Christmas," he said.

He was a lean, lank individual, and nature seemed to begrudge him the few pounds of flesh he had, for they hung on him in wrinkles, as though they had shriveled before they had grown. He came and leaned against the doorpost, whittling a stick.

"You're expectin Robert to-day, ain't you?"

Miranda glanced at him with something of scorn in her expression.

"Yes, I'm expectin Robert," she answered. "And you know very well, Jim Clayton, if it had not been for you he would never have been condemed for something he didn't do."

Clayton laughed. His small eyes rested on her hungrily.

"Well," he said presently, "it's taught him a lesson anyway, and it's taught you one too. You won't be so triflin with men's affections hereafter as you've been with mine."

"I never trifled with yours."

"You didn't, eh? Then, when are you goin to marry me?"

She did not answer, and he continued:

"Remember, Miss Miranda, beaus ain't as plentiful with you now as they used to be. You'll have to take what you can get."

"I won't take you anyway. I'd rather live and die single. So there!"

As he looked up at her, standing on the step above him, he devoured her words, and they fed his purpose as grist feeds a mill, Then, closing his knife with a click, he put it in his pocket and started to go. After he had got a few feet away he called back over his shoulder:

"Goodby. I just dropped around to see how things were goin. I'm sorry your expectin Robert. You might be disappointed."

Miranda smiled as she turned back into the house for breakfast. Her father had come down stairs, so they sat down together. She talked freely, for she was thinking much and rapidly. Robert would be there soon now, she knew, and she wanted to have things bright and cheery when he came—something to remind him that it was Chr,stmas.

But as noon came and he had not arrived her spirits began to flag. She served the turkey and pudding for dinner without eating herself.

"Where's your appetite?" asked her father.

"I feel as if I just had breakfast."

"Land sakes, its been eight hours or more! You must be a little worried over Robert." He was an easy going man, and trouble set lightly on his shoulders.

"I am father. I wonder why he doesn't come?"

"Oh, he'll be here presently. There's another train in about 6 o'clock."

Still she felt restless and soon began to watch for the last train of the B. and O. railroad over the mountains. It passed, but Robert did not get off.

What had Jim Clayton meant?

Her father sat down before the big log fire and began to smoke.

"Robert's late," he ventured.

But Miranda said nothing. All the thoughts that she had had during the day had left her.

She went to the door and looked out. The sky was a leaden gray, and the moon came over the peaks and cliffs.

She stepped out and went quickly down the valley. A wind had risen, and as she had on neither hat nor coat her thin figure swayed against the keen whips of cold. Everything along the bluffs looked gigantic in the gloom, which seemed to widen and lengthen as she went on. The rows of summer cottages at Oakland and Deer Park—fashionable mountain resorts—were all shut and deserted, and the great snow bound hills on each side offered nothing but blank silence.

"Robert!" she called. "Robert!"

A little further on she saw something lying still and black against the snow. Her pulse quickened. Was it Robert? Approaching she found it was Jim Clayton.

"What's the matter, Jim?" she asked, bending over him.

His face gazed up at her through the moonlight.

"I've been waitin and watchin all day up yonder on the mountains," he said in a weak voice. "But I couldn't see well at night, so I slipped and fell. Is—is Robert come yet?"

"No. Have you seen him?"

Miranda waited breathlessly. It seemed to her a long time before Jim spoke. Then he said in low, wavering tones:

"I reckon I'm about done for, so I might as well make a clean breast of it. I was waitin for Robert. I never meant to let him go home."

"What do you mean?" she asked, bending closer to catch his words. She could not realize the situation and stood as if rooted to the spot.

"I've always had a bad temper, and I meant to kill Robert, just as I killed that man ten years ago and then threw the blame on Robert. He wouldn't let me pass, and—and so I did it. My mind hasn't ever been easy since. But, now that I'm about to go, I'll try and even up things. Robert's been pardoned, and—and you'll forgive me, won't you?"

He reached out and laid his hand over hers in a tremulous way.

"Goodby," he faltered. "I hope—I hope you'll forgive me."

Then he died, lying there on the snow. Miranda unloosed her hand and hurried back toward home again.

It did not take her many minutes to reach there, and as she burst in at the door Robert who had come up the other side of the valley, came forward to meet her.

"Miranda!" he said, reaching out both arms.

She put up hers and clasped them around his neck. She did not speak, for events had crowded down upon her so suddenly that she could not give vent to words. But after awhile she drew away and looked at him.

He had changed certainly. His shoulders were stooped, his hair was sprinkled with gray, and about his eyes and mouth were furrows, prophetic of a hard life and intense feeling rather than of age.

Could she forgive Jim Clayton?

As she told the story of how she had found him down in "The Glades" and of all that he had said, both Robert and her father listened attentively.

"We must go to him," said her father.

"Yes," added Robert, "and the little that we can do for him must be done now—at once."

There was no malace or unkind feeling of any sort in his voice, and she wondered how he who had been wronged so deeply could forgive so easily. He seemed to know how to sympathize in a way that but few of us do, and which, when we lack, is only taught us by the trials and ordeals through which we ourselves pass. It was something that she had never before seen in anybody, and it brought back to her with full meaning the thoughts that she had had that morning of Christmas.

As they went out she knelt and prayed to the great and glorious Saviour that she might be worthy to be Robert Dodd's wife. Then she prayed for the soul of the man who had caused her all her sorrow.

CHRISTMASANA.

Although Christmas is now universally regarded as the anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ, although during the fourth century a rigorous examination was made by the theologians of the east and west as to the exact time of his nativity and Dec. 25 finally agreed upon, it seems almost certain that that is not the day. As that is the acme of the rainy season in Judæa, it is not in the least likely that shepherds would then be watching their flocks on the plains at night, when, as is recorded, they saw the star of Bethlehem rise in the east to guide them to the sacred manger. Some of the earlier churches celebrated the divine event in January, some in May, others in June, and any one of those periods would have been more probable than is December.

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The time of fixing the religious festival was not chosen, however, without ample cause. Like most of the Christian holidays, it is primarily due to pagan precedent. Nearly all the pagan peoples considered the winter solstice, Dec. 21 as a momentous point of the year. Then nature began the renewal of her active powers, and the gods, who were originally but the celestial personifications of those, were supposed to revive their care of interest in man. Consequently those peoples marked the period with festivities and celebrations of many sorts. And when Christianity arose the old heathen spirit was transferred to evangelical agencies and reproduced in evangelical rites.

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The ancient Germans held their great Yule feast at the winter solstice (Yule is still a synonym of Christmas) to solemnize the return of the fiery sun wheel—the sun is styled in the Edda the shining wheel—as a part of their nature worship. This worship survived in Europe until 50 or 60 years ago. The inhabitants of some of the villages on the Moselle were long in the habit on St. John's eve of carrying a big wheel wrapped in straw to the top of a hill, firing the straw and rolling it down. If it reached the river still ablaze, they regarded it as a good omen, evidence of a fine vintage. The greenery with which we still ornament our homes and churches at this season and the gifts we hang on Christmas trees are probably relics of the symbols with which our rude ancestors expressed their faith in the power of the returning sun to clothe the earth with greenness and to produce new crops of fruit. And the frumenty (made of hulled wheat, boiled in milk and seasoned,) still eaten in parts of Great Britian, and in some of our southern states, at Christmas time, would seem to be a tradition of the offerings paid to Hulda or Bertha, the embodiment of fertility in the Teutonic mythology, to whom the Germans looked for fresh supplies of grain.

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Inasmuch as Christmas, whether the date be correct or incorrect, stands for the birth of Jesus, everybody must revere the day, because everybody reveres him. A great many men who do not at all believe in his divinity believe in his transcendent goodness, his love of humanity, his spirit of self sacrifice. They do not think that his being the Son of God would add to his merit, but would rather detract from it, because his Godship would remove him from the plane of humanity and from human sympathies. They prefer to regard him as only a man, but the very best, the noblest, the grandest of his race. All creeds, all schools, all philosophies honor him to the fullest. Even the Jews, who are charged with putting him to death and hating his memory, sincerely respect him, though they do not allow the supernatural claims made for him. It was only one of their sects, the Pharisees, who clamored for his execution. The body of the chosen people hold themselves guiltless of his blood. The educated Brahmanists. Buddhists, Mohammedans, Shintoists, Parsees, place Jesus in the front rank of mortals. The savagest iconoclast, the rankest infidel, always speaks of him with admiration. Of God there is no end of opinions; of Jesus, morally, humanly, there is but one.

—

Christmas is scarcely thought of now by the multitude as other than a day of recreation and pleasure. From the a mes it was devoted to merry-making, with which its religious observation was never allowed to interfere. It is the first and most joyous of all holidays, especially to children, whose festival it is often called. Hardly an American any more than a German child but has delightful associations with Dec. 25, the very poorest in this country receiving presents from their parents and every opportunity and encouragement for joyousness. Unfortunate indeed is the child who has not remembrances of a happy Christmas. We all feel that childhood can never return, and that it is our duty to contribute whatever we can to make it bright and pleasant.

Christmas is really blessed in what it means and brings, whatever their circumstances, to the world of children.

—

Some rationalists hold that all life ends with death; others that it continues indefinitely, though without consciousness, so that it is equivalent to extinction. The larger part of the world believes that man dies numberless times, each time being newly incarnated, so that life is but a series of births and deaths through ages. Plato definitively believed and taught this, any many philosophers before and since, maintaining that with each rebirth the soul, which is indestructible, advances and ameliorates.

"As if a brick were lying in my stomach', is the description by a dyspeptic of his feeling after eating.

This is one of the commonest symptoms of indigestion. If you have it, take Shaker Digestive Cordial.

Not only this sympton, but all the symptons of indigestion are cured by Shaker Digestive Cordial.

So many medicines to cure this one disorder. Only one that can be called successful, because only one that acts in a simple, natural, and yet scientific way. Shaker Digestive Cordial.

Purely vegetable; and containing no dangerous ingredients, Shaker Digestive Cordial tones up, strengthens, and restores to health all the digestive organs.

Sold by druggists, price 10 cents to $1.00 a bottle.

The Florida Limited.

Three entire new trains for Southern Railway's Florida Service. The Southern Railway will inaugurate its Florida Limited on January 17th, 1898. The three trains built for this service are the finest that have ever been turned out by the Pullman Company. This season's schedule will be the fastest and most convenient ever operated between Eastern cities and the resorts of the South. The Florida Limited will leave Broad Street Station daily, except Sunday, at 2.36 P. M. and arrive at Jacksonville at 1.10 P. M. and St. Augustine 2.20 P. M. Write to Jno. M. Beall, District Passenger Agent, 828 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, for further information and advance Pullman reservations.

Eyes Were Affected.

"My husband was broken out with boils all over his body. They came out on his face and affected his eyes. He did not obtain any relief until I gave him Hood's Sarsaparilla which affected a cure. My little girl had gatherings in her head, but Hood's Sarsaparilla cured her." Martha G. Clark, Mickleton, N. J.

HOOD'S PILLS cure nausea, sick headache, indigestion, billiousness. All druggists. 25c.

California.

America is a great country. In variety and grandeur of natural scenery it is unrivaled. Its wooded heights, its fertile valleys, its boundless plains, its rugged and rocky mountains, its great lakes, its balmy slopes are the admiration of all mankind. To traverse this great country, to behold its diversities and its wonders, is a liberal education, a revelation to the immured metropolitan citizen. The Personally-Conducted Tour to California under the direction of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company which leaves New York on January 8, 1898, affords a most excellent opportunity to view the vast variety and boundless beauty of this marvelous land. The party will travel westward in special Pullman cars in charge of a Tourist Agent and Chaperon, stopping en route at Omaha, Denver, Colorado Springs, Manitou, Garden of the Gods, Glenwood Springs, and Salt Lake City. In California visits will be made to Monteray and the famous Hotel Del Monte, Santa Cruz, San Jose, Los Angeles, San Diego, Riverside, San Bernardino, Redlands, and Pasadena. The party will return on the "Golden Gate Special," the finest train that crosses the Continent, leaving Los Angeles February 2, and stopping at Tuscon, El Paso, and St. Louis. Eighteen days will be spent in California, Round-trip rate, including all necessary expenses during entire trip, $335 from all points on the Pennsylvania Railroad System east of Pittsburg; $330 from Pittsburg. For itinerary and full information apply to ticket agents, or address Geo. W. Boyd, Assistant General Passenger Agent, Broad Street Station, Philadelphia.

Washington

December 28 is the date selected for the personally-Conducted Holiday Tour of the Pennsylvania Railroad to Washington. This tour will cover a period of three days, affording ample time to visit all the principal points of interest at the National Capital, including the new Congressional Library. Round-trip rate, covering all necessary expenses for the entire time absent, transportation, hotel accommodations, guides, &c., $14.50 from New York, $13.50 from Trenton, and $11.50 from Philadelphia. Proportionate rates from other points. Persons who desire may return by way of Gettysburg, and spend two days at that point, by purchasing tickets at $2.00 additional, which include this privilege.

SPECIAL TEACHERS' TOUR.

A special teachers' tour, identical with the above, will be run on the same date. Tickets for this tour, covering all necessary expenses, including accommodations at the National Hotel, Willards Hotel, or the Hotel Regent, $2.00 less than rates quoted above.

For itineraries and full information apply to Ticket Agents; Tourist Agent; 1106 Broadway, New York; or address Geo. W. Boyd, Assistant General Passenger Agent, Broad Street Station, Philadelphia.

Our Woman's .....Column

PHILOSOPHY OF GIVNIG.

THE man who starts out to buy presents does not stop to count the cost or inspect the quality of the articles profusely exposed to his fancy. Everything goes, as the saying is, and he crams his pockets with a miscellaneous assortment of things for which he pays two or three times as much as they are worth, when they are worth anything, and which nothing could induce him to purchase, or hardly to carry home without expense at any other time of the year.

This is not the highest expression of the meaning of Christmas, but it is authenic and salutary as far as it goes. It is in harmony with the spirit of the festival, and its efforts tend to keep alive those feelings and inspirations which are the mainstay of society and the basis of morality and religion. So long as the germs remain there is sure to be growth and product.

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A SIMPLE GOOD WILL.

There is a married couple in Washington with their own peculiar method of celebrating such occasions. As the New Year dawns the wife will show you a $10 gold-piece and announce, "This was Charlie's Christmas present to me." The husband will show you a $10 goldpiece and say, "This was Annie's Christmas present to me." They always give that and always have given it. They lay the coins away and merely exchange them year after year.

***

THE INDISPENSABLE TREE.

Of all things for Christmas a Christmas tree is indispensable in a house where there are children. The exploring of overflowing stockings will not give half the pleasure that comes from the discovery of a "real live" tree, with a gray bearded, snow specked Santa Claus peeping from its branches! It matters not how small the tree if it be prettily decorated. In this it is chiefly the first cost which counts. The same ornaments, with very few additions, will do year after year. As for the tree itself, there are five different kinds, all beautiful in themselves—pine, hemlock, spruce, cedar and balsam fir.

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CHRISTMAS GOOSE.

In England goose is more often the Christmas bird than turkey. To those who think of substituting a goose for a turkey the caution is given that the former, though it may present an ample and tempting appearance as it is brought to the table, crisp and aromatic, will serve by no means generously, as only the breast is available. Under the modern treatment of removing the tough leg tendons, thus gaining all the drumstick meat, there is no edible bird to compare in economy with the turkey.

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A LONG TRIP.

From the far northwest of this country to Norway, Sweden and Denmark seems a great way to go to spend the Christmas holidays, yet thousands of Scandinavians do it every year. They go to New York city in trainloads during the latter part of November and the first part of December, the jolliest, happiest, most contented emigrants that leave this country.

The trip across the continent is shortened by good nature and a recounting of experiences, for they are a simple folk and readily make friends and exchange confidences. They are a home loving people, and after being here for a few years and accumulating a little money they almost invariably return to Scandinavia to visit and to tell of their successes here.

Those who have gone home to visit this fall are generally men in the prime of life who have established interests here, and who will return in the spring, after two or three months of enjoyment and wonder telling their relatives and friends. All these emigrants carry much ready money, with which they are liberal to a fault. That which they have is entirely due to their own energy. They are producers of the most valuable kind. They come here with the idea of becoming citizens and landowners, and although they retain their affection for the old home and the old life they never forget or belittle the advantages that they have received here or the allegiance that they have promised to their adopted country. A large percentage of those who are now visiting at their birthplaces will bring wives back with them.

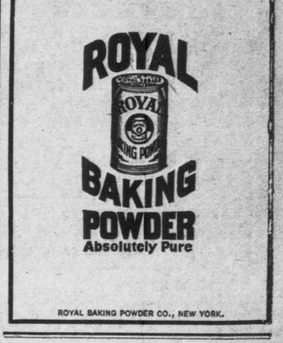
Changing Fortunes.

At Christmas time last year
So many friends that now are gone were here.
So many hopes were glowing then unspoken
So many faiths were strong that now lie broken
And loving hearts that trusted without fear
At Christmas time last year

At Christmas time this year
So many of us find the world a drear
And barren desert wherein blooms no rose,
With mountain peaks surrounding it whose snows
Have chilled our hearts and turned life's foliage sear—
At Christmas time this year.

At Christmas time next year.
Who knows what changing fortunes may be near?
Take courage then our night shall turn to day.
From bright'ning skies the clouds must roll away,
And faith and love and hope shall all be here
At Christmas time next year.

Royal makes the food pure, wholesome and delicious.



ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., NEW YORK.

Washington ...Letter

DEMOCRATIC opposition to the annexation of Hawaii, which has become so pronounced since the reassembling of Congress, is fully explained by a story that is being told among the knowing ones in Washington. According to this story, the Democratic party has been sold by its leaders in Congress to the sugar trust, which all the world knows is willing to spend an enormous amount of money to prevent the annexation of Hawaii. The sugar trust has agreed to furnish a corruption fund which the Democratic leaders believe to be large enough to enable them to elect a Democratic majority of the House next year and a Democratic President in 1900, if the Democratic leaders can succeed in preventing the annexation of Hawaii, either through the ratification of the treaty or by direct legislation. That is why the Democratic Senators, with two exceptions, are all working against the ratification of the treaty, and why the Democrats of the House will this week, in caucus, declare against annexation. But this disgraceful deal cannot be carried out, because the Democrats cannot prevent the annexation of Hawaii.

—

Chairman Dingley's emphatic statement in the House about the prospective revenues and expenditures of the government, disposed of the whole batch of misrepresentations as to Republicans seriously considering legislation to furnish additional revenue. Of course, everybody in Washington knew that these stories were purely imaginary and that the only object in circulating them was to discredit the administration and the Republican party. Mr. Dingley did not simply make the assertion that the revenues of the government would exceed its expenditures by at least $10,000,000 during the next fiscal year, but backed his assertions with figures which had the unqualified endorsement of President McKinley and Secretary Gage. No legislation providing more revenue is contemplated by the Republicans in Congress, for the simple reason that none is needed; the Dingley law is steadily increasing the revenue and will provide all the money necessary to economically administer the government.

—

The fact that 72 Republican members of the House participated in a conference called after they had each signed a paper stating that the conference should consist "of such Republican members as favor the modification of the civil service law, or a more honest enforcement of its provisions, or a more certain definition of the extent of its application," convinced even the most doubting that there is serious Republican opposition to a continuance of the present civil service situation.

These Republicans believe in real civil service reform, but not in the sham article for which Mr. Cleveland is responsible, which covered with the protecting cloak of civil service reform, thousands of Democrats who entered the public service by the dismissal of Republicans, for no other cause than their Republicanism. Reduced to what they consider its legitimate function, every one of these Republican representatives would vote for a continuance of the civil service law, but rather than see it continued in its present shape, they will work for its repeal or crippling in any manner within their power, and they will not lack for staunch supporters among the rank and file of the party throughout the country.

If this isn't the short, business session of Congress that it ought to be, the Republican leaders of the House are fully determined that no blame shall be laid at their doors. Since the first day of the session they have been hustling. Last week the pension appropriation bill was reported and passed, and this week the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill will be put through. The disposal of two of the regular appropriation bills before the Christmas recess will be a record of which the Republicans of the House may well feel proud.

A little thing like a fact never bothers those who lie through choice. When Senator Hoar presented the petition of some native Hawaiians, against annexation, to the Senate, the liars all rushed a statement off that Senator Hoar is the champion of the petitioners and intended to fight annexation. Now, where do you suppose Senator Hoar got that petition? From Secretary Sherman one of the staunchest advocates of annexation. It was taken to the State Department by the Hawaiians, and Mr. Sherman told them he would have it laid before the Senate, which had the treaty under consideration, and he asked Senator Hoar, as a member of the Committee on Foreign Relations, to present it. Every day Senators present petitions with which they have no sympathy, and nothing is said about it, but in this case the paid lobbyists lied in order to impress their employers with the idea that they were earning their pay.

The Middletown Transcrip

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY MORNING
Middletown, New Castle County, Delaware
McKENDREE DOWNHAM,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.
Entered at the Post Office as second-class matter

MIDDLETOWN, DEL, DEC. 18, 1897

The "Sun" of Wilmington deserves credit for its investigations and publications in the Boggs Bank defalcation. Its cotemporaries pooh-pooded the idea that others and men of high political position were involved in the matter. They are whistling a very different tune now. The claim is made it is an Addicks scheme. If so, it is apparently a good one and the TRANSCRIPT seldom thinks this way on the Addicks lines. The "Sun" says seven men are concerned, and the names of several of them are in everybody's mouth. It claims that Boggs will very shortly return and intimates the seven will be glad to take his place in exile if they are permitted so to do. Let the "Sun" shine that no guilty man may escape.

LAST week the Holiday advertising shut out a column and a half of reading matter. This week our "Language Lessons" and other desirable reading gives place to business demands. There will be ample space after Christmas.

CHRISTMAS CENTURY.

Christmas number of Century contains a bright picture of "Merry Christmas in the Tenements" by Jacob A. Reis.

Mr. Reis is fully competent to treat of this subject, being well known and widely read on the life of the crowded districts of New York.

In his Christmas study he brings out one fact that cannot too often be insisted upon: i. e. the distribution of Christmas gifts by the rich to their less fortunate fellow creatures, and the holiday feasts prepared by individual and associated charities.

The poor are the greatest givers at Christmas and all other times; the very poorest are generous with their little store, and give not only of their worldly goods, but of their labor and helpful sympathy.

It is in these lower walks of life that he depicts the love of the beautiful in nature—here you will see some little plant struggling to live, creaping up to the light which at best is all two shaded for its growth, and as you wander through the crowded streets scarcely a store but has some decoration, it may be only a sprig of holly, yet the spirit of the day is abroad.

No one should discourage the efforts to bring light and happiness into these homes but should do all in the power to rid our great cities of these homes of filth and vice which are to be found among these crowded districts.

Mr. Reis gives one very touching incident of his tour among these people. The good Blind Jennie is endeavoring to do for those more fortunate in the gift of not having their vision impared, but less forunate in not having the inner light which clothes her, and which she lets shine in these dark corners. He also tells of the endeavor that is being made to improve their condition and make better citizens of them.

In a city like New York the variety of races and the difference of language is great barrier to the development of education among these masses; this is only one of the obstacles that must be overcome in the building up of a purer and nobler civic life.

It often happens that men are remembered, their names cherished and honored, by what they themselves consider their poorest efforts; often it is that the lesser lights burn longest on the altar of fame. So it is with Dr. Clement C. Moore, as he is shown to us by Clarence Cook in "The Author of A Visit from St. Nicholas" in the current number of Century. Speaking of poets Mr. Cook says "They take much pains to please their peers among the learned and the cultivated, who "scarce allow them half an eye;" while some flower chance dropped from their hands is picked up by a child in passing, and their surprise, * * * they find that out of the mouths of babes and sucklings their praise has been ordained."

It is in the lines beginning

"'Twas the night before Christmas,
When all through the house," &c.

that Dr. Moore lives in the thoughts and hearts of the children, and not in those verses which he thought would make his name immortal these have long since been lost in the brush-heap of neglect. The circumstances of his writing these verses to which we have referred was for his own children and not with the view of publication. They were sent by a lady who was visiting his home, without his knowledge, to the Troy "Sentinel" in December, 1823, a year after they were composed.

Besides these lines, "A gift to our Children," there is another gift for which his name will always be honored and revered and that is "to the world of scholars" in the donation in 1878 of an entire block on the Hudson River for the foundation of the General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church.

Tribute to Miss Mary Hodson Budd a Teacher in the Middletown Schools.

For the first time in the history of the "Middletown Schools," one of our Teachers has fallen by the hand of death.

On the evening of Thursday, November 25th., 1897, Mary Hodson Budd, was suddenly called to lay aside the mortal and put on imortality, and has already received from the lips of the Divine Master, the commendation of "well done."

Miss Budd was education in the "Middle town Schools," and on August 6th 1889 was elected one of the Board of Teachers, which position she filled up to the time of her death, with entire satisfaction to the "Board of Education," as well as to all concerned.

In the death of Miss Budd, we feel that the "Middletown Schools" have sustained a great loss, and we desire to express not only our high appreciation of her as a faithful teacher, but of her beautiful and consistent Christian life and character, as exemplified in the home, in society, and in the church.

To the family of the deceased we extend our heart felt sympathies, commending them to the loving care of Him who is always, "a present help in time of trouble."

And it is hereby ordered, that a copy of this tribute be sent to the family of the deceased, the same published in the TRANSCRIPT and *New Era* and also recorded on the Journal of this Board.

GEO. D. KELLEY,
JNO. W. JOLL,
ALFRED G. COX,
Committee.

Middletown, Del., Dec. 15th, 1897.

Nervous people find relief by enriching their blood with Hood's Sarsaparilla, which is the one true blood purifier and nerve tonic.

OUR CHRISTMAS STOCKING.

Containing Best Wishes to All Our Business Associates in Middletown For the Most Prosperous Holliday Season and the Most Happy of all New Years.

BRAGDON & CO.

Alphabetically and neighborly it is natural to step first into the next door where Holiday greetings meet you on all sides. The doctor and his affable clerk will convince you that it is no trouble to show goods.

MRS. J. W. BARNETT.

Always has the glad Holiday greeting—a pleasant word—every day in the year. Her business is to please in all her sales.

WILLIAM BROCKSON'S.

Efforts are to sell good goods, a hundred cents in the dollar, every day his store is open. Mrs. Brockson's taste in purchasing guarantees easy sales to the obliging clerks.

MRS. J. B. BRATTON.

Opened her Millinery with intention of pleasing her patrons. Good taste and small profits have been the watchword here.

J. A. BRADLEY.

Business at the "East End" has never been better than under Mr. Bradley's direction. A walk to his store will surprise you in quality and prices.

J. H. BURROWS.

Among the busy B's is Burrows. News is his first consideration but cigars, tobacco, pipes, &c., share in the trade.

S. BURSTON.

Mr. Burstan's specialty is the shoe but in clothing and gent's furnishings he can fit in price and quality.

F. BLOOME.

The trade which Mr. Bloome has is really surprising—it has grown so fast. It is because it is deserved.

JOSEPH BERKMAN.

Due to the excellent taste of his landlady Mr. Berkman's store is taking on the TRANSCRIPT colors outside—inside the quality and price of the goods speak for themselves.

W. T. CONNELLEE.

It's a shame possibly to confess it but we envey Mr. Connellee that "Crow's foot" wreath which decorates his window. It will fade but the quality of the goods sold there remain the same. Nothing better to recommend Christmas purchases.

A. M. CHAMBERLAIN.

Has many fancy articles all the year round and they are just as useful and pretty and acceptable for Holiday presents as any. Tell him what you want.

F. L. CATES.

"Who wants to think of death insurance at this season?" Call on Mr. Cates and be convinced insurance is for the living not the dead.

DEVALINGER & BRO.

'Tis a full store you find here and busy clerks but they are always at your service There are special Christmas attractions elsewhere named in this issue. Mr. DeVallinger is bound to win

J. K. DAWSON.

It is surprising how much a dollar will buy. Mr. Dawson can convince you that a dollar will purchase lots of Christmas comforts. Try him.

DAVIS & PRICE.

This firm is so well known to the agricultural community that to mention them is to suggest standard goods in their line. The purchase of a rake or a fork, a steam thresher for Christmas would be extremely practical but they are necessary and if not this week then early next spring.

W. E. EVANS.

Why did not someone think of an exchange store before? Why was America left to Columbus to discover? Mr. Evans thought of it and he merits the growing business.

J. H. EMERSON.

Mr. Emerson is the TRANSCRIPT's neighbor and what he does with the wagon loads of furniture which come to him is almost a mystery. He says small profits sell it, and he must be right.

J. B. FOARD.

Will buy your wheat or corn or other grain and guarantee the highest market price.

G. W. FORD.

Will spend his first Christmas in Middletown. He says he has cause to express appreciation of custom and has reason to expect an increase.

G. E. HUKILL.

At the old stand on Railroad Avenue sells lumber and coal—two of the essentials of latter day civilization: Mr. J. C. Kelley is there to take your orders.

MISS E. F. INGRAM.

Is the latest comer among those seeking the patronage of the TRANSCRIPT's readers but well known to all and will be glad to see you.

JOS. C. JOLLS.

Provide protection to the feet and you escape many ills. Shoes are Mr. Jolls' specialty. He expects to hold your trade by the sale of standard goods at moderate profits. Visit his store.

J. W. JOLLS.

For many a Merry Christmas has Mr. Jolls merited the good will and the orders of his fellow citizens. He deals in coal and wood and grain. Why not make glad some poor man's home by a ton of coal from Mr. Jolls' coal yard? You can afford it and be the happier for it.

HARRY JONES.

Have you seen "the cow what gives sou milk?" 'tis sweet earlier in the day. This is but one of the many attractions here for the children but the greatest is the guarantee of pure confections, Old Kris keeps headquarters here.

W. B. KATES.

'Tis Mr. Kate's intention to become a worthy successor to his father; by promptness, fair dealing and courtesy to hold all the old customers and to win new ones. His Christmas greetings are on these lines.

M. KUMPEL.

If any man illustrates in the health and strength of active life the excellent quality of that upon which he lives it is the genial butcher. Lincoln longed that others of his generals should find the quality of the Grant liquors, so may many seek the Kumpel steaks.

W. B. LETHERBURY.

Have you ever seriously considered Letherbury's Ten Cent Window? If you have but a dime to express your good will at this season towards a friend you can select a gift from that window. It is remarkable what it contains. Walk inside and view the handsome store.

MISS FANNIE LOCKWOOD.

Has pretty ribbons, pretty hats and bonr nets, pretty fancy articles, all of them suited to the fancy of the pretty wife, pretty sister or pretty sweetheart. She will advice you what to purchase.

J. K. LONG.

Fresh country poultry and the best meats are Mr. Long's idea for the merriest Christmas dinners. He keeps them.

J. B. MESSICK.

THE TRANSCRIPT's representatives have actually spent hours admiring Messick's beautifully decorated windows. They are but an index to the three stores combined into one with second floors and third floors specialties. The amount of goods and the prices are really a wonder. Mr. Messick elsewhere tells what he has to sell and the crowds who visit the store are a guarantee that the people read his ads.

MIDDLETOWN HARDWARE CO.

'Tis here you will find the substantials but they remain for many a Christmas to speak the gratification of the donor and pleasures to the recipient. What shall it be? Inquire of Mr. Hukill or Mr. Budd—they can advise from experience.

MRS. V. W. MASSEY.

There is not a citizen in Middletown who will not rely on Mrs. Massey's judgment as to quality and price of jewelry. Good taste in purchasing adds to other advantages found here. The same care is given the baby's tiny ring as to the most costly jewelry These are Christmas greetings all the year round.

MRS. A. M. MCKEE.

In the budding spring time, in the grow-summer, in the harvest season Mrs. McKee has spoken through TRANSCRIPT locals and at this Holiday season the TRANSCRIPT would endorse most heartily all the promises she has made as to quality and price of her goods.

O. M. MATTHEWS.

It is not always the big store nor the large quantity that give quality. Often you find the best at the small store. Mr. Matthews expects to merit your trade by giving first-class goods all the time.

J. F. MCWHORTER & SON.

Such will be the firm name after New Year's and the purpose of the new firm is to meritand to do a much larger business than ever before. Practical Christmas presents are to be found there.

MRS. GEO. W. PETERSON.

Has as a specialty her ready-made clothing for ladies. It is easy to find suits ready-made for men but for ladies' wear it is often difficult to do so. Mrs. Peterson has them.

J. C. PARKER.

At the Diamond State Harness Store most acceptable presents may be found for father, husband or brother. Perhaps they are not sentimental enough for a lover but next year you may get his purchase there the relations having been changed by the aid of the parson.

GEO. G. ROWE.

Not only has Mr. Rowe the handsomest pictures and picture frames ever kept in town but this year he has ornaments for Christmas trees, &c.

C. B. SATTERFIELD.

The man who attends strictly to his own affairs usually knows what will please his customers. Mr. Satterfield has customers who would think the Christmas dinner not up to standard if not purchased in chief at his store.

HENRI TRINK'LERE.

A handsome photograph is a handsome present at Christmas. All Mr. Trink'lere asks is a sitting. He does the rest.

VAUGHAN'S PHARMACY.

Alphabetically the end is appro aching, and the great advantage or disadvantage to be of the A B C's or the X Y Z's is here illustrated. "First or nowhere" is the motto of some. "The best of the wine at the last of the feast" is just as practical and more sensible. In any event Christmas shoppers will not see all the pretty in town until a things visit is paid to Vaughan's Pharmacy.

W. W. WILSON'S.

Is the old standard news and tobbacco stand. Some think the smoke is not so good nor the news so interesting unless purchased at Wilson's.

PAUL WEBBER.

Bread is the staff life of and Mr. Webber's object is to furnish not only this staff but also the luxuries as well—fruit cakes, pies, confection &c.

WM. WOOD.

There are many little things necessary to comfort and convenience to be found only at Mr. Wood's. If you are puzzled about your purchase let the "Major," as his friends address him settle the question for you.

W. J. WILSON.

Since there are no X Y Z's among Middletown's business men the W's must close the list. The cream rises to the top but in the plum pudding the richest parts seek the bottom. Mr. Wilson is willing to share the plum pudding of Christmas trade by giving you rock-bottom prices on furniture and house furnishings. Try him and be convinced.

THE TRANSCRIPT.

Last, since it is polite thus to mention self, come the claims of the TRANSCRIPT. Is there anything nicer, of the kind, for a Christmas present to a distant friend than a year's subscription to the TRANSCRIPT? The question is left for your consideration.

FOR SALE—A well-bred young horse cheap. J. C. PARKER.

Twenty-One Years

This week we came across a copy of Every Evening of March 18, 1876. The paper has been enlarged making this issue appear quite small when compared with the paper now though it is two-thirds the size. It contains the following editorial note which is of local interest, Mr. Cox having been the constant superintendent of the school and he is "still in the harness:"

Our Sunday School is the name of a neat little eight page-paper just issued at Middletown by Mr. A. G. Cox, Superintendent of the Sunday school of Bethesda M. E. Church, of that place. It opens with a review of the history of the Church, and gives fully the statistics, &c., of the Sunday school for the past year. It is a decidedly handsome little sheet and must be highly valued by those connected with the Church and school, presenting to them, as it does, in convenient form for preservation, the record of the year's work. It was printed at the office of the Middletown TRANSCRIPT and its typography reflects credit on the establishment."

Thousands suffer from Catarrh or cold in head and have never tried the popular remedy. There is no longer any excuse, as a 10 cent trial size of Ely's Cream Balm can be had of your druggist or we mail it for 10 cents. Full size 50 cents.

A friend advised me to try Ely's Cream Balm and after using it six weeks I believe myself cured of catarrh. It is a most valuable remedy.—Joseph Stewart, 624 Grand Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.

A Tribute.

Elsworth Chesser, only son of Capt. and Mrs. George P. Chesser, died of apendicitis at Winchester, Queen Anne's county, Md., Dec. 12, after an illness of only five days.

Elsworth though but six years old was large for his age and a very bright boy. He was devoted to Sunday-School and the idol of his home. Mrs. Linwood Thomas was his Sunday school teacher. Rev. Mr. Fooks spoke very tenderly of Elsworth's good qualities at his funeral; the interment taking place at Murray's M. P. Church. He was a nephew of Mrs. Geo. W. Peterson of this town. A FRIEND.

THE TRANSCRIPT $1.00 a year

WANAMAKER'S.

PHILADELPHIA, Monday, Dec. 13, 1897.

Store open evenings until 10 o'clock hereafter until Christmas.

How Big is Kriss Kingle? in the Main Aisle. He is 23 feet from crown to soles. It took 850 pounds of clay to model the head alone; 13½ pounds of hair for wig and beard; 43 yards of felt and eiderdown for coat and 48 quilts to line it. Three men tugged at the coat to fetch it from the tailor. His gloves are made from 7 yards of black goods and his boots from 15½ yards of black oilcloth. They are lined and stiffened with 10 yards of 2-yard-wide felt. It required 18 feet of lumber to make the buttons for his clothes and 728 feet of lumber was used in forming his skeleton. And Kriss Kingle isn't half so big and hearty as our welcome. Enjoy the Christmas store!

Handkerchiefs CLOSE shave! This seventy-four thousand four hundred handkerchiefs just reached us from Ireland! And they were needed. Such handkerchief selling is melting big piles rapidly.

France has sent big lots—and Switzerland.

Men's fine hemstitched French handkerchiefs—some plain centers and colored borders, others with plaid and striped centers and borders, $1 and $1.10 each.

Quieter sort—hemstitched, fine, pure white—$1.75 a doz., though now worth $2.50.

Or these—fine white hemstitched handkerchiefs—six in a box—$1.50.

SILK MUFFLERS—

Count the styles, if you've time—hundreds of them. To count and sort would give you such a picture of them as we've no space to print.

50c—Mostly all black—some colors.
75c—White and black—fifty patterns in the weaving.
$1—Gay colors and quiet, and many white mufflers from Japan.
$1.50—Finer. That's all.

Women's and Girls' Mackintoshes IT'S not only a satisfaction to always have at hand a sure protection for the dress when a trip must be made in the rain; it's a safeguard for health as well. Then the new Mackintoshes have a dressiness about them that is pleasing—light in weight; velvet collars and double capes on many of them—

For woman or girl, a Christmas gift that will be helpful, as well as pleasing, for years, perhaps.

These price hints—

Women's Zenda Mackintoshes, cashmere face; neat check backs; double detachable capes, with inlaid velvet collar; in black and navy. $4. Girls' size, $3.75, in blue only.

Women's Mackintoshes, cashmere face; fancy plaid back; new style double breasted; single detachable cape; inlaid velvet collar; in blue and black. $6.75.

Women's Mackintoshes, with cashmere face, fancy backs; double detachable capes; inlaid velvet collar; in blue and black. $6.75. Same style as above, with fine serge face, $10.

Girls' Mackintoshes in navy blue cashmere face; fancy plaid back; single cape, with hood; both detachable; inlaid velvet collar. $5.

Men's Gloves TWO stores for them—needed, to hold the gloves and the hundreds who depend on this store for their supplying.

Chiefest kidskin gloves are these—made to our order in Grenoble—

"Royale," tan, red tan, brown, white, black. $2.

"University," tan, red tan, brown, black. $1.50.

"Exton," pearl, white, black. $1.50.

But they are more or less dressy. For warmth—

Thousands of pairs—gloves for men who drive and ride bicycle or horse. $25 for the finest fur gloves. 25c for the cheapest warm glove we have.

Men's Overcoats THE shaggy frieze is probably the most liked overcoating of the year. Warm, serviceable, dressy—little wonder that it is. The colorings are black, brown and Oxford gray; made in the properest lengths, with all the latest touches of the best merchant tailoring. Some lined with Italian cloth, some with black worsted; all sleeves satin lined; many have shoulders lined with satin. Prices—

$10, $12, $15 and $20

Towels boxed A HALF DOZEN towels in a neat box—good idea, isn't it? Fine to have such handsome towels to box at such little prices. These hints—

BOX OF SIX FOR $1.08—
Full bleached German Damask towels; with hemstitched ends and pretty broche borders of red and blue; size 20x40 inches—each one fairly worth a quarter.

BOX OF SIX FOR $1.50—
Fine all white German Huck towels, ready hemmed, and with pretty damask borders; size 22x42 inches.

BOX OF SIX FOR $1.50—
Fine, bleached German Damask towels, with knotted fringe, and pretty colored borders in red, pink, blue and gold; size 22x42 inches.

BOX OF SIX FOR $2.10—
Fine Damask towels, with knotted fringe, and bordered—some all white, others with light blue, pink, yellow or red borders; size 22x50 inches.

John Wanamaker.

New York Clothing House.

WE GIVE STAR TRADING STAMPS.

THIS has been a great week in every part of the store, busy as nailors in that Overcoat room of ours. We're selling Overcoats to men who never came to our store before—these men will be our customers for everything they need in the Clothing line.

Here's three items for that Overcoat Room:

Blue, black and gray Overcoats, all wool, velvet collars, seams piped, look well, fit well and wear well, $5.

Fine Kersey Overcoats, made with French facings, the equal of most $10 Overcoats; we sell them for $8.

Silk lined Overcoats, fancy worsted lined Overcoats, clay diagonal Overcoats, brown Melton Overcoats and others, $10.

Lots of highest grade of Suits and Overcoats up to $20.

And Clothing for little men:

We have made a hit with those nobby Chinchilla and Astrakhan Reefers for boys, $2, $2.50, $3, $3.50, $4 and $5.

We give Star Trading Stamps. Ask for them.

Store open evenings until Christmas.

Strictly one price and if dissatisfied with your purchase, we will return your money.

MAX EP HRAIM, PROP.
NEW YORK
CLOTHING HOUSE,
316 Market Street,
WILMINGTON, DEL

John W. Jolls,
Dealer in
The Wm. Lea & Sons.,
Fancy Rolled **Flour** and Patent
Mill Feed of all kinds, Seeds, Coal, Etc.
COAL COAL.
Agents for WM. LEA & SONS CO., in the
PURCHASE OF GRAIN

Chichester's English Diamond Brand.
PENNYROYAL PILLS
Original and Only Genuine.
SAFE, always reliable. LADIES ask Druggist for Chichester's English Diamond Brand in Red and Gold metallic boxes, sealed with blue ribbon. Take no other. Refuse dangerous substitutions and imitations. At Druggists, or send 4c. in stamps for particulars, testimonials and "Relief for Ladies," in letter, by return Mail. 10,000 Testimonials. Name Paper. Chichester Chemical Co., Madison Place. PHILADA., PA.
Sold by all Local Druggists.

MAJOR A. SMITH,
PROPRIETOR OF THE
Diamond State **Restaurant,**
Has Removed from
NOS. 7 AND 9 FRENCH STREET TO
No. 122 Market St.
WILMINGTON, DEL.
Meals at All Hours.
Roast Dinners and Poultry—the Best in the City.

I HAVE A NICE LOT OF
MACKINTOSHES
AT **$3.00!**
Suitable for Christmas Presents. Ladies', Misses' and Men's Box and Cape Coats.
All goods selected now will be kept until Christmas if so desired.
JOS. C. JOLLS,
Middletown, - Delaware.

Its Never Been Here Before!

We mean our new designs in Bric-a-Brac!!

SOMETHING NEW!!

For Christmas Presents they are unsurpassed.
If you don't see them
YOU WILL BE SORRY.

We have a fine line of domestic and useful articles to select from for

Christmas Presents!

Also a Great Variety of TOYS for the Children. We want you to see them.

WE HAVE FINE CANDIES AND CHEAP CANDIES,

Nuts, Fruits and all that you need for the MERRY CHRISTMAS TIME.

WILLIAM BROCKSON,
Middletown, - Delaware.

A Grand Sale of
Holiday
AND STAPLE GOODS

We are prepared for the greatest Holiday business in our history. Immense Stocks of Desirable Merchandise, at unusually inviting prices fill every nook and corner of this establishment. Through our system of

SPOT CASH BUYING and . . .
. . . SPOT CASH SELLING

we are able to sell much lower than any other house.

LINEN TOWELS and BUREAU SCARFS

Irish Point Bureau Scarfs, 1½ yards long, 40 cents.

Linen Table Napkins, satin finish, choice designs, 22 inches square, 85 cents.

All Linen Towels, Satin Damask, hemstitched and drawn work, big value, 25 cents.

68-inch all Linen Table Damask, satin finished, bleached and unbleached, 50 cents.

MUSLIN, FLANNELS and SILKS.

9-4 Sheeting, unbleached; fine and heavy, 12½c the yard.

27-inch Heavy Shaker Flannel, 10c grade, 7c cents.

30-inch Extra Heavy Close Back Canton Flannel, 12½c grade, here 8 cents.

Lancaster Ginghams, 5 cents the yard.

32-inch English Wrapper Flannels, 9 cents the yard.

Large Marsailles Bed Spreads, heavy quality, 98c.

Fine All-Wool White Flannel, 28 inches wide, 20 cents, actual value 30 cents.

Fruit of the Loom Muslin, full yard Wide, 7 cents.

Hill Muslin, full yard wide, extra heavy, 6 cents.

5,000 yards Best indigo, Black and White Prints, usually sold at 8c, here 5 cents.

China and Japanese Silks, fancy shades for Holiday uses, 25 cents, 40 cents and 50 cents.

Black Satin and Black Silks for Skirts and Dress, large and small patterns, 35c, 50c and 75 cents.

Double Width Novelty Suitings, mixed and check effects, 12½ cents the yard.

36-inch All-Wool Novelties and Suitings, variety of styles, extra value, 25 cents.

40-inch All-Wool Figured Serge, extra quality, 17c.

XMAS HANDKERCHIEFS,

Manufacturers' Sample Linen. Six Hundred Ladies' Embroidered Handkerchief, 25 styles, 10 cents each, good value at 15 cents.

Artificial Roses, 3c, 5c and 8c.

Holiday Sale of LAMPS AND CHINA.

See our Big, Bright and Beautiful Tables, Crowded with Hundreds of Articles Suitable for Holiday Gifts.

Handsomely Decorated Banquet Lamps, assorted color latest designs and globes, $2.50.

Silk Shades Lamps, central draft, $2.50.

Lamps of Fashion are now trimmed with Globes. You can change your old lamp into a new one by buying a new globe for it. Opal Decorated, price 50c, 75c, $1.00 and $2 00.

TOYS! Doll Coaches, 23c, 47c, 72c, 98c and up to $2.00.

Games—300 New Games from McLaughlin Bros., such as Foot Ball, Fireman, Boo Peep, Steeple Chase, Bicycle Race, Picture and Scroll Puzzle, 5c to 98 cents.

Sleds for boys, 40 inches long, 25 cents.

White Enameled Bureaus and Bedsteads, Bureaus have plate glass revolving in frame, 4 drawers, and brass trimmings, $1.25.

Large Writing Desks, leather covered top, with large double slates, worth $1.50, here 98 cents.

J. B. MESSICK,
Middletown, - Delaware.

Harrisons' BERLIN, MD.

Budded last season over one and a half Million Peach Trees from Natural Tennessee Seed, and on land that has not been peached—In a locality with no yellows or scale, and as healthy as can be grown. Come and see them before you buy.

REFERENCE: EDITOR OF TRANSCRIPT.

Harrisons' Nurseries,
A. HUSHEBECK, Agent, Berlin, Md
Middletown, Delaware.

Iranscript, $1.

Wm. B. Sharp & Co.

FOURTH and MARKET STS.
Wilmington, Del.

Our store will be open evenings until Christmas.

Our Upholstering Department presents many beautiful things very adaptable to holiday thoughts.

Down Pillows

are useful, ornamental and restful. We have them in a great variety, both covered and in white.

18 inch, 50c.
20-inch, 85c.
22-inch, $1.00.
24 inch, $1.25.

Those that are covered are made to our own order and selection in French satine and cretonne for 75c each. and with Persian silks, $1.75 and $2.00.

We are offering great inducements to curtain buyers and have them in lace and heavy goods from 50c to $25 per pair. When any room in your house or your friend's can be so much beautified for so little money why hesitate?

Rugs

You'll lose the chance on those greatly reduced Japanese Rugs. There's a big assortment yet, but they are selling daily.

3x6, $1.10.
4x7, $1.35.
9x12, $5.75.
12x15, $11.00.

Can't some room in the house be improved by one of these

Combination Desks?

A useful and elegant gift would be one of our handsome Writing Desks and Tables combined in one piece. They are quartered oak and mahogany finish, very completely fitted up for either desk or table, $10.00.

Handkerchiefs

Our Handkerchief display is being much admired. The prices are very low, making these popular gift things have a large sale. They are from 4c to $2.50.

Skirts

Ladies' Knit Skirts, all new styles and beautifully finished, 50c, $1.25, $1.50 and $2.

Ladies' Black Satine Skirts, umbrella shape and lined with flannel are very popular; $1 and between prices to $3

Stockings—

Get the boy a box of Stockings that will hold and then let him run. They are here with extra heavy double knee, high sdliced heels regular 25c goods—now 3 pairs for 50c.

Carpets—

You will save money by selecting your Carpets now. The new spring Brussels at 50c are very pretty.

WM. B. SHARP & CO.

Geo. W. Peterson,
BROAD AND MAIN STS.,
Middletown, - Delaware.

2000 Pieces
Ready Made Wear!
For Ladies and Children
—AT—
10c. PER PIECE!

300 Shirt Waists,
FROM 25 CENTS UPWARDS.
A FEW SILK WAISTS.

300 Wrappers,
All Styles and all Prices, best of all our own make.

Ladies Suits Made to Order.
And full line always kept on hand.
A full line of Clothing for Ladies. Underwear of all kinds.

MILLINERY!
The best line we have ever had in stock at reasonable prices.
GEO. W. PETERSON.

Fits Cured

From Dr. Journal of Medicine
Prof. W. E. Peeke, who makes a specialty of Epilepsy, has without doubt treated and cured more cases than any living Physician; his success is astonishing. We have heard of cases of 20 years' standing cured by him. He publishes a valuable work on this disease, which he sends with a large bottle of his absolute cure, free to any sufferer who may send their P. O. and Express address. We advise any one wishing a cure to address Prof. W. E. PEEKE, F. D., 4 Cedar St., New York

POPULAR PRICES.

$200,000.00

WORTH OF CLOTHING STILL LEFT.

HAVING purchased, before the advance in values, an enormous stock of the most popular and best makes of goods ever manufactured in this country or abroad. We are offering the most magnificent assortment of

FALL AND WINTER.

CLOTHING!

that can be found in this or any other city, consisting of Overcoatings and Suitings—Kerseys, Diagonals, Friezes, Cheviots, Tricots, etc. All of the latest patterns at prices so low as to defy all competition.

As a special offering we will sell

500 Men's Overcoats at $5.00 worth $10.00
500 " " 8.00 worth $16.00
500 " " 10.00 worth $20.00
500 Men's Suits, at $5.00, sold elsewhere at $10.00.
500 Men's Suits at $5.00, sold elsewhere at $12.
500 Men's Suits at $10.00, sold elsewhere at $16.00.
250 Boys' Overcoats at $2.00, worth $4
200 Boys' Reefers and Suits at $2, worth $5.00.

CUSTOM DEPARTMENT a specialty. Samples sent on application and estimates cheerfully given.

Garitee & Son,

Tower Hall Clothing Bazaar, No. 518 Market Street, Philadelphia.

"Entrance under the Clock."

ELY'S CREAM BALM is a positive cure. Apply into the nostrils. It is quickly absorbed. 50 cents at Druggists or by mail; samples 10c. by mail. ELY BROTHERS, 56 Warren St., New York City.

The Reason We Can Work So Cheap

Is because we have our own Factory and do not have to pay anyone a Commission for doing work.

All wook is pressed and finished for the following PRICES:

GENTLEMEN'S CLOTHING.

CLEANED

Suits French Dye Cleaned	$1 50
Suits Scoured	1 00
Pants Dry Cleaned	50
Pants Scoured	35
Overcoats Dry Cleaned	1 00
Overcoats Scoured	75

DYED

Suits Dyed	$1 50
Pants Dyed	50
Vests Dyed	25
Overcoats Dyed	1 00

Ladies' Clothing Cleaned and Dyed at Reasonable Prices.

Suits Altered and Repaired. Velvet Collars put on Overcoats. Coats and Vests Relined, new Binding on Coats and Vests and new Buttons put on all Clothing. The Hartford Dyeing and Scouring Works will Crease and Press Pants free of charge, once a week, for all gentlemen who patronize them with their work.

☞Goods sent by Express will be promptly done and delivered in four days.

HARTFORD
Dying and Scouring Works,
210 West Seventh Street, between Orange and Tatnall Sts., Wilmington, Del.

Managed by W. M. BROOKS.

Lumber... and Coal

BUILDING LUMBE of all kinds INCLUDING

Yellow Pine and Hemlock Frame, White Pine and Hemlock Boards and Fencing, Siding, Flooring, Shingles—

(Several Grades)

Roofing Lath, Plastering Laths and Pickets.

MILL WORK OF ALL KINDS!
Paints of the Best Manufactures.
BUILDING AND AGRICULTURAL
...LIME...
DRAIN TILE and Woven Cedar PICKET FENCE.
BEST VEINS OF
HARD AND SOFT COAL.
FULL STOCK! LARGE VARIETY!

G. E. HUKILL

Middletown, Del.

Edwin R. Cochran, Jr.

Attorney-at-Law!

NO. 907 MARKET STREET,

Wilmington Delaware

Middletown Directory.

MUNICIPAL OFFICERS.

President—G. W. W. Naudain; Secretary, W. S. Letherbury; Charles H. Howell.

BANKS.

Peoples National Bank.—President, G. W. W. Naudain; Cashier, Geo. D. Kelley; Teller, W. G. Lockwood. Bank Building on East Main Street.

Citizens National Bank.—President, Joseph Biggs; Cashier, John S. Crouch; Teller, ... Darlington. Bank Building on South Broad Street.

SECRET SOCIETIES.

Middletown Council, No. 2, Jr. O. U. A. M. Meets every Monday night in McWhorter's Hall at 8 o'clock.

Union Lodge, No. 5, A. F. & A. M. Meets first Tuesday of each month in Town Hall.

Good Samaritan Lodge, No. 9, I. O. O. F. Meets every Thursday night in McWhorter's Hall at 8 o'clock.

Damon Lodge, No. 12, K. of P. Meets every Wednesday night in McWhorter's Hall at 8 o'clock.

Major John Jones Post, No. 22, G. A. R. Meets every Friday night in Reynolds Building at 7 o'clock.

Welcome Conclave Heptasophs. Meets every second and fourth Friday night in K. of P. Hall.

Union Lodge, No. 6, A. O. U. W., meets every 2d and 4th Tuesday night in McWhorter's Hall.

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.

Volunteer Hose Company, meets first Friday night of each month in Hose House.

MIDDLETOWN, DEL, DEC., 18 1897.

SEED SELECTION.

Principles Governing the Intelligent Selection of Seed For Sowing.

No farm practice yields more beneficial results than the careful selection of seed. With a view to assisting beginners are here appended some helpful information from the last agriculture year book:

The principles governing seed selection depend largely upon the kind of seed and the object of the crop, whether size, quality or earliness of the latter is most desired. It also makes some difference whether the plants are to be grown for forage or seed. Certain climates, soils and fertilizers tend to seed production rather than to vegetative development, and a plant may be cultivated and selected for its seed producing capacity until a strain of seed is obtained which tends to yield plants possessing similar seed fertility. If quality rather than quantity of crop be the object, the selection of seed must follow a certain line in order to secure plants of the desired characteristics.

Seed may be selected according to its origin, color, form (considering especially whether it is plump or wrinkled), size and weight, it being taken for granted that the selection shall be made only from sound, pure and germinable stock. It is thought by some that the value of seed varies in certain cases according to the part of the plant or fruit from which it comes. An experiment made in Georgia with cotton showed that the bottom bolls produced seed which gave a heavier yield than that from the upper bolls, the yield in the former case amounting to 1,043 pounds of seed cotton per acre as compared with a yield of 750 pounds in the latter. This was undoubtedly due to the fact that the lower bolls contained larger and heavier seed rather than because the seed came from a certain part of the plant.

Many trials have been made of corn selected from the tips and butts of the ears. Sometimes one and sometimes the other kind of kernels give the best crop. It is quite likely that this variation results from the difference in size and weight of the different kernels taken from the same ear. In the case of the parsley, carrot, parsnip and other umbelliferous plants it is commonly supposed that the central stalk produces the best seeds. This may be due to the fact that such seeds are frequently larger and heavier than those from the lateral shoots.

The degree of maturity of seed when harvested is an important factor in determining its value. Many experiments have been made with immature seed, resulting in the conclusion that such seed produces, as a general thing, smaller and less vigorous plants. Professor Goff of Wisconsin has shown that by the use of immature tomato seed there is also a tendency to increased earliness in the maturity of the fruit. By means of continued seed selection, plants may be so developed as to show a certain flavor, capability of resisting disease, general hardiness, earliness, superior content of sugar, oil, starch, gluten, etc.

Storing Cranberries.

The question, How shall the fruit be treated after it is received from the pickers to best preserve it till time for marketing? brought out much discussion at the late meeting of the Cranberry Growers' association at Camden, N. J. As reported by The American Agriculturist, the essential points insisted upon by Hon. Theodore Budd are: The fruit must be thoroughly dry before it goes into the packing house, it must be cool throughout and must be in ventilated open boxes or crates. In the storehouse it must be kept as cool as possible and as dark as may be, but frost must by all means be kept out. The storehouse must be thoroughly ventilated and the crates so packed as to allow of free circulation of air throughout. Mr. E. H. Durell agreed generally, but uses shallow trays instead of crates.

The coloring of fruit picked green can be controlled to some extent by light and heat. The best method is to let the fruit color slowly in the dark. Mr. Holman has seen excellent results from packing berries in large boxes holding 15 to 20 bushels and piling them in a solid mass in a cellar 8 feet deep. They kept in almost perfect condition until the following March and with very little shrinkage. Mr. Jones stated that in New England they tried to avoid keeping by selling at once, from the bog if possible.

Cider and Vinegar.

The best method of preserving cider, according to The American Agriculturist, is to heat it to 175 degrees F., place in airtight packages and seal while hot, following the methods used in canning fruit. If carefully put up, the cider will keep perfectly and be as sweet the second summer as when first made. The objection to this method is that the flavor is slightly changed. When opened, fermentation will set in just as it will with canned fruit.

In the same journal is told how a successful orchardist in Illinois makes cider vinegar. He puts the cider at once into barrels, which are elevated to the second story of the fruithouse. Upon the approach of winter one-third the contents of each barrel is removed and placed in other casks. Freezing will then not burst the barrels and frost will hasten the vinegar making process. When thawed out in spring, roll the barrels over so that the contents will be thoroughly agitated then allow to stand. By May or June almost every barrel will contain excellent vinegar. Do not expose to the frost vinegar already made. By placing the barrels in the upper story the barrel worm, the pest of the vinegar maker, is escaped.

AIR SLAKED LIME.

As a Fertilizer—If You Want Grass or Clover, Use Lime.

Remarks concerning lime made from time to time are often misleading to readers not experienced in the use of lime as a fertilizer. The term air slaked, for instance, as used in contradistinction to hydrate of lime, is wholly misapplied. The following from the pen of a Country Gentleman correspondent furnishes enlightenment on the subject. He writes:

The practice among farmers who use lime more or less every year as the rotation returns to the wheat and grass or clover seeding is to bring the lime fresh from the kiln and take it to the field where it is to be used and drop it in suitable heaps at stated distances. Thus, if 40 bushels to the acre, which is the ordinary amount used, is to be spread, the lime is dropped from the wagon in small heaps two rods apart each way, which, of course, gives one bushel to four rods and 40 to the acre.

The lime thus exposed to the dew and the moisture of the air becomes air slaked, or, as one correspondent says, hydrated or caustic lime. These terms are all equivalent, for the lime is simply air slaked by exposure to the air which contains sufficient moisture to reduce the lime to an impalpable powder in a short time without in the least affecting its caustic property. It is hydrate of lime unquestionably, and as certainly it is air slaked, which is quite a different thing from water slaking, which cannot be done for this purpose without very great trouble and in a measure spoiling the lime for the use it is intended for.

To slake the lime with water would make part of it pasty and the rest a coarse powder, while the absorption of the due proportion of water, which is about one-third of its weight, by the lime brings it into the condition of an impalpable powder, which is spread easily by the shovel, aided by a gentle wind by which it is carried all over the land. It is not a good practice to cover the lime with damp earth, and as it is quite unnecessary would be an enormous waste of time and labor. The exclusion of the air from the lime is of no importance whatever, for the lime takes carbonic acid from the air very slowly, and a year or more would not be sufficient wholly to carbonize a pile of ten bushels of lime and destroy its causticity when it is in the form of lumps as it comes from the kiln. So the exclusion of the air is quite immaterial, and the method above described is found to be all that is necessary.

The effect of the caustic or air slaked lime when produced in the way I mention is to dissolve the mineral matter of the soil to some extent, but to a much larger extent to decompose organic matters, and to a valuable extent—when it is reduced to a carbonate by exposure to the air in its very fine condition of division—to feed the minute organisms by which, in the presence of carbonate of lime, and not the caustic lime, the inert nitrogen of the soil is made available. The caustic lime would destroy these, and thus it is that the mild carbonate of lime and even the common marl, which is the decayed remains of minute shells, are sometimes found almost as valuable for the growth of clover and grass as the caustic air slaked lime is. I have used some thousands of bushels of lime in my life and for some years lived in a Pennsylvania valley where nearly every farm had its own limekiln on it, and there it was the commonest saying, "If you want grass or clover, you must use lime." And my experience fully warranted this.

Stacking Corn Fodder.

In some sections of the country corn fodder is tied in bundles and stacked like grain. The bundles are bound with straw bands in convenient size for handling. To begin the stack or rick, lay down three bundles side by side, then two on top of these and one on top of the two. Duplicate this pile until the rick is as long as desired. Now set bundles on each side of this foundation and also at the ends until the bottom is of the desired width. On this build the rick as you would wheat or rye, only keep the center higher by letting the tops of the middle row of bundles lap a little. In feeding from such a rick take the fodder from the end, beginning at the top and going to the bottom. The Farm Journal, which gives these directions, says, "This will not expose the heart of the stack to the weather."

Horses In Greater New York.

In Greater New York there are said to be about 500,000 horses kept for business or pleasure. Rural New Yorker says that these horses consume an average of 10 pounds of hay and 12 pounds of grain per day. This means 812,500 tons of hay and over 1,000,000 tons of grain in the course of a year. There are only 11 states in the country that, singly, produce hay enough to feed these New York horses. The states of Rhode Island, Delaware, Florida, Louisiana, South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia all combined could hardly supply hay enough in their total crops to last these horses for 11 months. As for the grain, it is enough to say that the entire oat crop of New England would feed these horses only about 13 months.

Here and There.

Although not generally known, there are peat bogs in various parts of Long Island and New Jersey. These are mostly small in extent, and the peat is seldom used for fuel owing to the fact that coal and wood are more easily obtained in almost all localities.

Considerable interest is shown in the beet sugar factory at Rome, N. Y.

The varieties of tomatoes that succeeded best at the New Hampshire station, named in order of productiveness, are Early Michigan, Acme, Brinton Best, Beauty, Red Cross, Waldorf, Fordhook First, Stone and County Fair.

In Rhode Island timothy and clover have been greatly helped by lime.

Tile and Stone Drains.

A Maine farmer, writing to The National Stockman, says:

Where circumstances favor more effective drainage can be accomplished by combining stone with tile. This is not infrequently impracticable, but where the soil to be drained is more or less stony the rocks can be readily disposed of by placing them in the drain over the tile and be of lasting benefit. A stone drain well laid makes a very effective drain, and if properly placed will do good service for a lifetime. It is now nearly or quite 45 years since I laid stone drains on a small area of wet land, and they are apparently as effective now as when first laid. But such drains are costly if one has to have the stone to construct them; besides it requires much more time in digging the trench and in laying the drain. Also if tile is to be topped with stone the ditch should be of width sufficient at the bottom to admit of laying the stone beside the tile and bridge across with flat stones so arranged as not to press upon the tile.

Buckwheat Middlings.

"Which is the cheaper grain for cows, buckwheat middlings at $11 per ton or Buffalo gluten meal at $14, to be fed in combination with wheat bran and oilmeal? The coarse feed consists of dry corn fodder and timothy hay."

The foregoing query was answered as follows by Rural New Yorker:

The gluten feeds vary more or less in their composition, but considering average samples the buckwheat middlings at $11 are decidedly cheaper. Buckwheat middlings of good quality, as usually bought near the buckwheat mills, are often the cheapest source of protein or muscle makers that a dairyman can buy. They are constipating, however, and are excellent to feed with ensilage. If fed with dry fodder and timothy, we should use two parts each of bran and buckwheat middlings and one part of linseed meal.

CARE OF SEED CORN.

It Must Be Thoroughly Dried and Kept So Until Used.

Every year at the beginning of the growing season we hear more or less complaint that the stand of corn is not as good as it should be, and every year there is more or less replanting. The only requisites are careful selection of the corn intended for seed, with equally careful preservation of it until seeding time, says the Iowa Homestead, authority for the following:

The majority of farmers select seed at husking time. Some make their selections earlier than this and some postpone them until the seed is wanted and then go out to the crib and get it. This latter method is a good way to get a poor stand. There are some seasons for which it is a bad way and others for which it is a very bad way, but there are hardly any for which it is a good or even a passably fair way, and if any of our readers pursue it we earnestly urge them to abandon it, and it cannot be done too soon. But some who select seed at husking time often sacrifice the advantage it would give them by not taking good care of the seed from that time on. Husking time may or may not be a good time to make the selection. If corn has matured well and there has been no freezing weather it answers very well. If the grain and cob are filled with moisture and cold snaps come, then it does not answer so well. It will occur to the thoughtful that any method whose results depend upon an "if" of this kind that is not within control should not be practiced.

But if the selection is made at husking time the best of care should be given the seed ears. They should be thoroughly dried and kept so until used. Kiln drying or something approaching it is the only method that is always safe. Less attention may do in some seasons, but in others it will not. Not a few who are careful in this matter store their seed ears in a room above the kitchen where there is always fire, and from which warm air passes by way of a register cut through the ceiling. Those who do this hardly ever complain of poor stands in the spring. We do not insist upon the curing and storage of seed corn in any particular way. Much depends upon what facilities the farmer has or is able to provide. We do urge, however, that the first thing to do with seed corn after it has been selected is to get it thoroughly dry, and the next to keep it so until it is needed for planting.

Exposure to freezing weather when damp will reduce the percentage of grains that will germinate and injure the vigor of the whole lot, and exposure to damp, muggy atmosphere and followed by freezes will do the same even though the seed has originally been well dried.

Water Protection From Frost.

Water parts with its heat so readily that so long as it continues above the freezing point it affords almost certain protection from freezing where it is. American Cultivator says: "It is one of the best means for keeping trees and shrubs from injury by extreme cold in winter to throw cold water over them and allow it to cover their branches with ice, as in cold weather will very soon be the case. If the weather continues cold long, this covering of ice will be gradually worn away by evaporation and may need to be renewed two or even three times. But so long as branches and twigs are covered with ice no severity of cold is likely to injure the tree.

"In fact, we have long believed that when trees which endure ordinary frost without injury are killed by severe cold in winter it is because this extremely cold air is taking moisture from the tree too rapidly. There is some circulation of sap in trees even in the coldest weather so long as some of their roots are below the frost line. It is an old saying of farmers that it is necessary to have heavy fall rains to fill the swamps and wet down the soil in forests, so as to prevent it from freezing too deeply. When winter closes in without severe rainstorms, many trees are sure to be winter killed the following winter."

Sugar Production.

It is not long since the cane sugar product of the world was twice that of the beet. Ten years ago the product of each was nearly equal, that of cane somewhat in excess. Last year there were of beet sugar 4,773,000 tons, of cane 2,432,000—7,205,000 in all. There is 50 per cent more produced than in 1886-7, and the increase is all in beet sugar, grown in Europe, in a temperate zone, where the cane cannot be grown. We have a fine cane belt, along the Mexican gulf from Florida to Texas, and a much larger territory admirably adapted to the growth of the beet, but we have been so busy in attempting overproduction of cotton and wheat that we have had no time to learn the cultivation of beets for sugar.—Country Gentleman.

News and Notes.

The latest addition to the industries in and near St. Louis is a Chinese farm.

Kerosene treatment is now urged for the San Jose scale. Both Ohio and New Jersey may claim honors of discovery.

According to the last census, Ohio has the greatest number of farms—251,430, followed by Illinois, 240,681; Missouri, 238,043; Texas, 238,126; New York, 226,223; Pennsylvania, 211,557; Iowa, 201,903. Other states fall below 200,000.

There is an increase in the Florida crop of oranges, and it is said that California will have 12,000 carloads as against 7,000 harvested last year.

It is claimed that the pulp from beets after the sugar is extracted makes a good feed for all stock.

The proper way to keep all roots is in out of door pits and as much as possible excluding air from them.

It is officially reported that "our bacon is too fat for foreigners."

News and Notes.

Electricity is being extensively used on the large German farms.

Manure made from animals fed on ensilage is free from weed seeds.

From the western states and from Canada come reports of great scarcity of beef cattle.

The official report of the condition of corn makes the October average 77, while the average for the past ten years is 89.

Government statistics give as the average cost of raising an acre of wheat in this country $11.71 and varies from $20 in the eastern states to $11 in the south and west.

It has been estimated that the United States wool crop of 1897 is 259,153,000 pounds against 272,475,000 pounds in 1896 and 294,297,000 pounds in 1895.

Fall Plowing.

The "advantages of fall plowing are understood by the majority of farmers, but so are its disadvantages, which in practical experience so far outweigh the advantages that there is far less fall plowing than there used to be," says American Cultivator, authority also for the following:

A great deal of the exhaustiveness of wheat growing is due to the fall plowing that is required to grow either winter or spring wheat. In either case the surface soil lies exposed to winds and rains, so that a great part of the fertility that frost has made available is either blown or washed away. Gardeners continue to fall plow, but even they regard it as a wasteful practice, though it does fit their soil for a seed bed as no amount of spring cultivation without fall plowing could do. They accomplish results, but it has to be at the expenditure of enormous quantities of manure, which average farmers who grow only ordinary crops cannot afford.

Home Study In Agriculture.

Professor Watson of the Pennsylvania State college has charge of the Chautauqua course of home study in agriculture. The lessons are designed to help the student in his study of the books prescribed by this course, and each lesson is accompanied by a number of questions covering the subject under study. After due investigation of these lessons The National Stockman and Farmer says:

"We have carefully examined these lessons and questions and find them so clear and practical that we do not hesitate to recommend the course to all who are in position to take it up the coming winter. Next to a term at a good agricultural school is a good course of home study in agriculture. This the Pennsylvania State college is providing for the farmers of the state, and they should take advantage of it. Professor G. C. Watson of the state college will furnish full information on application."

To Jacksonville—St Augustine.

THE FLORIDA LIMITED VIA THE SOUTHERN RAILWAY TO BE RESUMED.—The Southern Railway now operates two daily trains to Jacksonville and St. Augustine, and will inaugurate a third, the Florida Limited, in January 1898. If you are going to Florida at any season of the year you should ask for tickets via the Southern Railway. All information can be obtained by writing Jno. M. Beall, District Passenger Agent 828 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

Old Point Comfort And Washington.

On December 28 the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will run the first of a new series of Personally-Conducted Tours to Old Point Comfort and Washington. The party will travel by the Cape Charles Route to Old Point Comfort, where one day will be spent; thence by boat up the Potomac to Washington, spending two days at that point. Round-trip rate, including transportation, meals en route, transfers, hotel accommodations, berth on steamer, and all necessary expenses, $22.00 from New York; $21.00 from Trenton; $19.50 from Philadelphia. Proportionate rates from other points. At a slight additional expense tourists can extend the trip to Virginia Beach, with accommodations at the Princess Anne Hotel.

Tickets to Old Point Comfort only, including one and three fourths days' board at that place, and good to return by regular trains within six days, will be sold in connection with this tour at rate of $16.00 from New York, $15.00 from Trenton, $14.00 from Philadelphia, and proportionate rates from other points.

For itineraries and full information, apply to ticket agents; Tourist Agent, 1196 Broadway, New York; or Geo. W. Boyd, Assistant General Passenger Agent, Broad Street Station, Philadelphia.

How's This

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

F. J. Cheney & Co., Props., Toledo, O.

We, the undersigned, having known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions, and financially able to carry out any obligation made by their firm.

WEST & TRUAX, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O. Walding, Kinnan & Marvin, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Price 75c. per bottle. Sold by all Druggists. Testimonials free.

Hall's family Pills are the best.

Those Who Endure

The pains of rheumatism should be reminded that a cure for this disease may be found in Hood's Sarsaparilla. The experience of those who have taken Hood's Sarsaparilla for rheumatism, and have been completely and permanently cured, prove the power of this medicine to rout and conquer this disease. Hood's Sarsaparilla is the One True Blood Purifier and it neutralizes the acid which causes the aches and pains of rheumatism. This is why it absolutely cures when liniments and other outward applications fail to give permanent relief. Be sure to get Hood's.

More

Medicinal value in a bottle of Hood's Sarsaparilla than in any other preparation.
More skill is required, more care taken, more expense incurred in its manufacture. It costs the proprietor and the dealer
More but it costs the consumer *less*, as he gets more doses for his money.
More curative power is secured by its peculiar combination, proportion and process, which make it peculiar to itself.
More people are employed and more space occupied in its Laboratory than any other.
More wonderful cures effected and more testimonials received than by any other.
More sales and more increase year by year are reported by druggists.
More people are taking Hood's Sarsaparilla today than any other, and more are taking today than ever before.
More and STILL MORE reasons might be given why you should take

Hood's Sarsaparilla

The One True Blood Purifier. $1 per bottle.

Hood's Pills cure all Liver Ills and Sick Headache. 25 cents.

25 CTS PISO'S CURE FOR CURES WHERE ALL ELSE FAILS. Best Cough Syrup. Tastes Good. Use in time. Sold by druggists. CONSUMPTION 25 CTS

GREATER OAK HALL | GREATER OAK HALL

Fine reputation won in a single season

Oak Hall is a place to save money on clothes, without risk—so reputation says. It always was. The only change is that women and girls talk about it now as men and boys know it of old. Whatever Christmas hunting you do for cloaks, dresses, furs—know the good things and good values of Greater Oak Hall to your profit in purse and pleasure.

Not how much we can get, but how low we can sell.

Christmas Hints

Alaska seal jackets, fly front, can be worn either revere or closed, fairly worth $250—we ask $200. Others worth $175, we ask $135.

Electric seal capes, 30 and 27 inch capes, silk lined, $25, $22.50, $16.50, $15. Extra 46 and 48 inches bust measure, $19.75.

Christmas Hints, too

Women's Cloth Capes, flare collar, full sweep, $15, $10, $5.

Kersey Coats, velvet collar, silk faced, $5.75.

Astrakhan Curl Boucle Reefers, shield front, flare collar, $2 or $3 below regular prices, $7, $6.50, $5.

Misses' Jackets, $3.75 and $5.

Money saving corner for men and boys

Headquarters for the best overcoats and suits in the city. Thousands of both ready. We fit everybody in the best overcoats for less money than is possible to ordinary stores. We do the clothing business from bottom to top—from choosing the kerseys, cheviots, astrakhans, beavers—plain and fur—to putting on the buttons of $5 overcoats for the thousands who have the least money to spend; to putting the best all-silk lining known in $45 ones. Storm coats for everybody's taste. It's the moderate priced that sell by most thousands—$7.50, $10, $12, $15, to $25.

We clothe the boy for about half a man's money.

We pay railroad fare on purchases of reasonable amount.

Wanamaker & Brown

Sixth and Market, Phila.

MIDDLETOWN HARDWARE HOUSE!

LARGEST STOCK!
LOWEST PRICES!

STOVES in great variety. Oil Heaters, $2.00, $3.75, $4.50, $4.75, $5.00 and $6.50.

Coal Heaters, $3.75, $5.00, $5.75, $7.00, $8.00, $10.00, $11.50, $13.00, $21.00 and up.

The popular Air Tight Wood Stove at $4.50—A great success. Will heat large size rooms.

Ranges and Cook Stoves of the best manufacture. $12.00, $13.25, $16.00, $19.00 and higher if you want very large ones.

We have a full line of Meat Cutters, Sausage Stuffers, Lard Presses and Cans and Butcher Knives.

BREECH-LOADING GUNS, Pistols, Shells, Cartridges, Powdr and Shot and Gunning Coats.

A large assortment also of Tin Ware, Agate Ware, Wooden Ware and House Furnishing Goods.

Ready-Mixed Paints, Lead, Oil and Varnishes.

☞Do not forget it! We allow a *TEN PER CENT. DISCOUNT* for *SPOT CASH* on all our *RANGES* and *COOK STOVES*.

MIDDLETOWN HARDWARE HOUSE, Opera House Building

Business Women

may increase their income by addressing:

THE MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

OF NEW YORK.

ADAMS & BROTHER,

504 MARKET STREET, Wilmington, Delaware.

TOYS, DOLLS, NOVELTIES, HOUSE FURNISHINGS

A Large and varied assortment of

Holiday Goods...

Sporting Goods.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

Transcript, $1.00

Time Table.

Phila. Wilm. and Baltimore R. R.

DELAWARE DIVISION

On and after November 29th 1897, trains will leave as follows.

SOUTHWARD.

	FAS. A. M.	EXP. A. M.	FAS P. M.	MAIL P. M.	MAIL P. M.	11.10 P. M.
Philadelphia	37 25	10.20	22 02	33.46	35.59	11.56
Baltimore	6 25	9.05	12 05	3.00	3.30	
Wilmington	8 13	11.04	2.51	4 27	6.15	
Farnhurst	f 8.22		f 3.00		f 7.04	
New Castle	8 27	f 11.21	3 05	4 39	7.19	
State Road	f 8.33		f 3.10		f 7.14	
Bear	f 8.38		f 3.15	f 4.49	7.19	
Porter	8 45		f 3.20	4.52	7.25	
Kirkwood	8 50		f 3.25		7.30	
Mt. Pleasant	8.59		f 3.34		f 7.39	
Armstrong	f 9 03				f 7.43	
Middletown	9 08	11.50	3.43	5 18	7.48	12.39
Townsend	9 17		3 52	5.28	7.56	
Blackbird	f 9 22		f 3.58		f 8 01	
Gr'n Spring	f 9 27		f 4 07		f8.07	
Clayton	9 33	12 07	4 13	5 42	8.13	12 47
Smyrna, DV	9 23	11.57	4.02	5.30	8.03	
Brenford	f 9.38		f 4 18		f8.18	
Cheswold	f 9 43		f 4 23		f8.24	
Dupont			f 4.36			
Dover	9.58	12 23	4.52	5.49	8.54	1.16
Wyoming	10 05	f12.29	4 29	6.06	9.00 a	1 14
Woodside	f10 11			f 6.11	f8 47	
Viola	f10.15			f 6.15	f8.51	
Felton	10 20	f12 40		f 6 20	8.56 a	1 38
Harrington	10 34	12.53		f 6 33	9 07	1.50
Farmington	f 0 42 a	1.00		f 6.41	f9.15	
Greenwood	f10.50	f 1 08		f 6 49	f9 22	
Bridgeville	10.58	f 1 16		6 5	9.31 a	2.14
Cannons	f11 03			f 7 01	f9 36	
Seaford	11 13	1.27		7 16	9 45	2.28
Laurel	11 23	f 1.37		7.19	9.55 a	2 50
Delmar	11 33	1.48		7.29	10 05	.56
	a. m.	a. m.	p. m.	p. m.	p. m.	p. m

NORTHWARD

	EXP. A. M.	MAIL A. M.	EXP. A. M.	MAIL P. M.	EXP P. M.	PAS P. M.
Delmar	f 4 38		7 00	8 0'	3 15	7.42
Laurel	f 4 51		7.11	8 10	3 25	8 1
Seaford	5.04		7.24	8 24	3.5	8.6
Cannons			f 7.31	f 8 31		8.04
Bridgeville	f 5 48		7.37	8 37	f 3 47	8 11
Greenwood			f7.45	f8.45	f 3.54	f 8.19
Farmington			f 7.53	f 8.53		f 8 27
Harrington	6 22		8.00	9 06	4 06	8 40
Felton	f 6.33		8.14	9 16	f 4.18	8 49
Viola			f8.18	f 9 20		f 8 53
Woodside			f8 22	f 9 24		f 8 57
Wyoming	6 26	6 57	f8 26	9 31	f 4 30	9.05
Dover	6.52	7 03	8 35	9 33	4 36	9.11
Dupont		f7 08				
Cheswold		f7.13		f 9 48		f 9 0
Frenford		f 7.18		f 9.53		f 9.25
Smyrna, DV		7.14	8 4'	9 49	3 44	9.22
Clayton	3.09	7 24	8.53	9 59	3 54	9.0
Gr'n Spring		f7.2-				f 9.37
Blackbird		f7 34		f10.08		f 9.43
Townsend		7 39	9 06	10 13	4.07	9.49
Middletown	3.30	7.50	9 15	10.23	4 16	9.57
Armstrong		f7.54				f 6.01
Mt. Pleasant		7.58		f10 32		6.05
Kirkwood		8.08		10.40		6.15
Porter		8.15	9 34	10.46	4.34	6.20
Bear		f8.20		f10.51		6.25
State Road		f8.25		f10.56		6.30
New Castle		8.31	9.46	11.02	f 4.47	6.35
Farnhurst		f8.36	9 5'	f11.07		f 6.39
Wilmington	4.15	8.45	9 58	11.17	4.59	6.47
Baltimore	6.21	10.40	11 5'	12 40	6.55	8.43
Philadelphia	5.10	9.32	10 46	12.46	5.4'	7.33
	a. m.	a. m.	a. m.	p. m.	p. m.	p. m

‖ Daily. § Daily except Sunday.

"a" Stops to leave passengers from Wilmington and points north, or take passengers for points south of Delmar.

"f" Stops only on notice to conductor or agent or on signal.

"p" Stops to leave passengers from points south of Delmar, or take passengers for Wilming and points north.

"t" Stops to leave passengers from Middletown and points south.

"x" Stops to let off passengers from Harrington points south.

NEW CASTLE ACCOMMODATION TRAINS.—Leave Wilmington 8.13, 11.04, a. m., 2.51, 4.27, and 6.55, p. m., week-days. Leave New Castle 8.31, 9.46, 11.02 a. m., 4.47 and 6.35 p. m., week-days.

Express trains leaving Harrington 8.05 a. m., and arriving at 6.33 p. m., week-days, run through solid to and from Baltimore, via Porter and Newark.

BRANCH ROADS.

DELAWARE, MARYLAND & VIRGINIA R. R.—Leave Harrington for Franklin City and way stations 10.39 a m week-days, 6.37 p m Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Returning train leaves Franklin City 5.50 a. m. week days, and 1.42 Tuesdays, Thurs a s and Saturdays only.

Leave Franklin City for Chincoteague (via steamer) 1 43 p m., week days Returning, leave Chincoteague 4.42 a. m., week-days.

Leave Harrington for Georgetown and Lewes at 10 39 a m 6.37 p. m., week-days, Returning, leave Lewes 6.45 a. m., 3 11 p. m. week-days

Leave Harrington for Berlin, 10.39 a. m. week days and 6.37 p. m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, Returning, leave Berlin 6.57 a. m., week days and 2.43 p. m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

QUEEN ANNE & KENT R. R.—Leave Townsend for Centreville and way stations 9 22 a. m., and 5 32 p m., week days Returning, leave Centreville 6 50 a. m., and 2 27 p. m., week-days.

DELAWARE & CHESAPEAKE R. R.—Leave Clayton for Oxford and way stations 9 38 a. m., and 5 47 p m., week days. Returning, leave Oxford 6 40 a. m., and 1 40 p. m., week-days.

CAMBRIDGE & SEAFORD R. R.—Leave Seaford for Cambridge and intermediate stations 11 17 a. m. and 7.14 p m week-days